places, where upward of a dozen people are crammed together, whose 697
smell alone in the great heat would be unbearable. Over and above this, the unfortunates are tormented by an enormous number of bugs, ticks, lice, rats and every other sort of vermin, which in such a favorable and fertile medium, multiply to an unbelievable extent. The inmates of these terrible martyr cells are not always real criminals; the majority is completely innocent, brought here by the whims of the ruler and the intrigues of political enemies, and they are often completely forgotten, and must then breathe their last in this kind of hideous surrounding. The two English travelers, Stoddard and Connolly, who were executed by the Emir Nasr Allah in 1842, must have languished in such prisons in the town of Bukhara before they were executed. The Russians have naturally cleaned out such horrors within their possessions, and use all their influence to make the conditions more humane in the states of Central Asia which are still independent; whether they are successful, no one is in a position to know.

Mutilations must have been employed rather frequently in earlier 681
times in Turkestan as legal punishment, judging by the large number 685
of persons one still saw in my time going about as beggars, with missing noses, hands, or even feet. These punishments were usually applied to thieves, whom they wished to render harmless or at least to single out in this fashion. For this reason most of those punished in this manner are Kazakhs, who see nothing wrong in stealing, but on the contrary consider it an honorable sport. The sedentary population fails to see the joke in this respect. The thieves had their hands cut off at the wrists, the feet were cut off at the ankles, but the noses were cut off as smoothly as though they had never had them. The ears of those who had already been legally punished once or more were slit or cut off as well, depending on the circumstances, and this kind of mutilation formed a kind of penalty list for those concerned in any sort of later conflicts with the law.

Death sentences were employed very often in the Central Asian 681
states, just as in Bukhara until the most recent times theft, adultery, 661
prostitution, and even the use of wine was punishable by death. But the greatest number of victims were always provided by the whim and suspicion /215/ of the rulers, who believed they could strengthen their thrones only by means of cruelty and the destruction of all individuals who were in any way suspicious. One may see from the example of the last Khan of Kokand to what extremes many khans went in this respect. He once ordered 20,000 Kipchaks executed, simply from vexation be-